

Timelines for new arenas tight, but attainable, says Lewis

By **CYNTHIA GAMBLE**
Staff Writer

The Town has announced the addition of two arenas— costing \$18.9 million— at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex is continuing in the planning stages, with construction to begin this spring.

“The addition of two ice surfaces... is progressing on schedule. It has been acknowledged that the timelines are tight, but attainable,” said Arena Steering Committee (ASC) co-chair Bryan Lewis in a press release.

While the timelines are “tight”, the ultimate aim is to have additional ice surfaces available in time for the 2013 fall ice season, he said.

“While nothing may seem to be happening at the SportsPlex, the public can be assured that much is going on behind the scenes,” said Lewis.

Unfavourable weather this fall delayed the asphalt installation of the tennis courts at

the Gellert Centre (the courts are being moved from the SportsPlex to make room for the new pads) causing the timeline for the groundbreaking to be revised. John Archibald, facility supervisor, said it will likely be set after the next construction meeting between the Town, architect and construction manager.

The additional pad at the Acton Arena is also still a go, said Archibald, with the Town looking to break ground in the spring of 2014.

Town staff will create a Project Progress Board at each arena where up-to-date information will be posted.

The ASC (five members of council, plus staff) has been meeting on a monthly basis to ensure that the additional rinks are being designed as per the mandate of the Georgetown Arena Task Force and Town staff.

As well, the construction manager, architect and Town staff are meeting every two weeks to keep the project on schedule and to deal with any issues that crop up.

Chosen as the construction firm is Mel-

loul-Blamey Construction, which has been active in Halton Hills, having completed the new Acton library and is working on the Library/Cultural Centre expansion project. They were also the general contractor for the Acton Arena and the original twinning of Mold-Masters SportsPlex.

“Melloul-Blamey is extremely excited to be chosen construction managers for the new arenas in Georgetown,” said Steve Hanley G.S.C. Vice President of Construction of Melloul-Blamey Construction.

MacLennan Jaunkalns Miller Architects (MJMA) has been chosen as the architectural firm.

“We believe our long experience in arena and community buildings will be put to good use in developing these much needed ice pads,” said Robert Allen of MJMA.

In February, Town council voted to go ahead with a three-arena program costing \$29.2 million— the two pads at Mold-Masters and another pad at the Acton Arena (\$10.3 million) by

the fall of 2015. The financing will include a three-year dedicated arena levy on homeowners’ tax bills in 2013, 2014, 2015— \$2.45, \$12.40 and \$12.40 on the average home assessed at \$350,000.

Swaying the council votes was a commitment made by the Halton Hills Arena Users Group (HHAUG) to raise \$5.86 million over the term of the 10-year debenture. It includes user fee charges and one-time registration charges worth about \$3.9 million over the next 10 years. It also includes a commitment to a \$2 million fundraising campaign.

But this summer the group only had \$9,000 in the kitty, so council voted to loan the group \$10,000 to hire a fundraising campaign consultant. A consultant was hired, and the Town is comfortable with the progress made to date, said Lewis.

To address the shortage of ice time for local users, the Town has secured 231 hours of ice at Teen Ranch in Caledon and 138 hours in Milton for the season. Those hours are in addition to what groups may be renting independently.



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